

REMARKS

The Examiner has asserted that the claims are directed to patentably distinct species under 35 U.S.C. §121, requiring election to one of two groups, namely claims 1-28, drawn to a device, and claims 29-35, drawn to a method. The Examiner has also asserted that if the claims of group I, drawn to a device, are elected, the election to one of six species, namely species I as shown in FIGs. 1A-1D, species II as shown in FIGs. 2A-2B, species III as shown in FIGs. 3A-3B, species IV as shown in FIGs. 4A-4B, species V as shown in FIGs. 5A-5B, and species VI as shown in FIGs. 6A-6D is required.

Applicants hereby elect the species illustrated in FIGs. 1A-1D, on which claims 1-3, 6-13, 20-21, and 24-28 read. The election is made without waiver, estoppel, or prejudice to the filing of one or more related applications directed to the subject matter of the withdrawn claims.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment on this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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